

The vast majority of legal gun owners understand the need to stop gun violence. We must all work together, regardless of our interpretation of the second amendment, or whether we live in an urban, suburban, or rural area.

Let us make a commitment to replace our rhetoric with action. Let us make our communities a better and safer place for all young people of all backgrounds.

Together, we can stop this public health care crisis and save lives. I came to Congress to save lives. I will not give up on this fight. We can reduce gun violence in this country. We just have to find common ground on how we are going to do that.

COMMENDING AND HONORING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the men and women of the Capitol Hill Police Force. I think it is important at this time that Members of Congress step forward to say thank you: thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, thank you for putting so much emphasis on training, and thank you for putting the emphasis on keeping this Capitol building and all the Members and staff and visitors who come here on a frequent basis to be safe, to be secure.

I think it is important, with so much attention right now on the Capitol Police Force, that all Members of Congress, Republican and Democrat, unite to say that we support you; we think you are doing an honorable and good job.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics show that there are over 1,500 Capitol Police officers, men and women of diverse backgrounds from all over the country, and some from around the world. They come here to save lives, to protect lives.

There are over 3 million visitors that come to this historic place that we call our Nation's Capital, both Washington, D.C. and this Capitol building and this complex where we work, where some of us live.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that with so much attention on the Capitol Police, it is necessary that we look at what they do on a daily basis.

It is not always easy, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the public, to see them on a daily basis; for visitors to come in, tourists, staff, Members of Congress; to see them on a daily basis. People aren't always courteous.

But what I found out about the Capitol Police officers, these men and women, is that they always will greet you with a smiling face, even when they are having a bad day; that their training is shown through by the way that they have acted over the years that they have been in service here on Capitol Hill.

As Members of Congress, we must say thank you: thank you for your sacrifice, thank you for your commitment, thank you for your dedication to our country, because after all, they are here to protect and save lives; and as Members of Congress, we should respect them for their dedication and their training; and we must honor them each and every day that we are here, because they are our colleagues as well here in the Capitol complex.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, as I said, to commend and honor the Capitol Police. It is the right thing to do. I think my colleagues should join with me in supporting the resolution that Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART and I filed just this evening to honor them for their work and their service.

So I urge my colleagues to join with me on this resolution; and I urge you, Mr. Speaker, to schedule a vote for us, so that we can honor these men and women who work with us each and every day.

Thank you to the Capitol Police officers.

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, we live in quite interesting times. Where else could you invest about \$1 billion and get \$100 billion in return? A Republican Congress, but of course.

As the New York Times recently pointed out, the people's House has turned into the House that Jack built. Here is what the Times says in an op-ed:

These are the men
That fleeced the tribes
That paid the money
That made the bribes
That purchased the Congress
That Jack built.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to read the rest of this poem, written and published last Friday, because it nails right on the head this is the House that Jack built.

Let's look at the \$1.2 billion that Jack Abramoff bought. Let's look at the house he built. The energy industry, oil and gas interests, they spent about \$87 million. What did they get? \$14.5 billion in tax breaks, given and paid for by the United States taxpayers; given access to \$65 billion in oil and gas from the Gulf of Mexico, costing the taxpayers \$7 billion in royalties they should be paying back to the Treasury that they did not get; given \$2 billion to the ultra-deepwater drilling fund. They were given that money, all for \$87 million in contributions and expenses paid on lobbying. \$14 billion in tax breaks, \$7 billion in lost revenue for royalties in the Gulf of Mexico, \$2 billion in tax subsidies there to the ultra-deepwater drilling fund.

You can't get a return on your investment like that on Wall Street.

Where can you get a return like that? The Republican Congress, of course. But that is not limited. In fact, that is prevalent.

Let's take the health care industry. They spent about \$173 million on lobbying and campaign contributions. Yet the pharmaceutical interests, \$139 billion in additional profits over 8 years. The prescription drug bill here, which was supposed to cost \$394 billion, ended up costing close to \$790 billion to the American people.

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Private insurers will make \$130 billion in extra profits in Medicare overpayments, HMOs given a \$10 billion slush fund, all for \$173 million in lobbying expenses and contributions mainly to the Republican Party.

Take business interests, spent \$500 million on lobbying. We had a corporate tax bill to fix a \$5 billion disagreement with Europe. By the time it was done, it cost \$150 billion, not \$5 billion, and it never fixed the problem. \$150 billion in corporate giveaways to special interests on the corporate tax bill, \$139 billion in additional profits for the pharmaceutical interests, \$130 billion in additional profits to the HMOs, and in lost revenue to oil and gas companies close to about \$22 billion while oil and gas interests are trading and oil is trading at \$66 a barrel, all in The House That Jack Built.

This is the operative philosophy of the Republican Congress. They have turned the Capitol upside down to figure out how much change they can take over from the American people and pass it off to the special interests.

When the gavel for the Speaker comes down, it is intended to open the people's House, not the auction house. For the last 6 years that gavel has been turned over to the auction house, whether it is the oil and gas interests, whether it is private insurers, whether it is the HMO industry, whether it is in fact the pharmaceutical industry, or whether it came to the corporate tax bill.

Oil is approaching about \$70 a barrel, now nearly \$3 at the pump. Gas home heating costs, up 38 percent. Health care costs are up 58 percent for the average family, \$3,600 in the last 4 years. College costs and tuition, up 38 percent for the American people, yet median incomes are down 2.3 percent, and yet what does this Congress continue to do? It continues to turn itself into an auction house for the special interests. When college costs were up 38 percent, the Republican Congress cut student loans by \$13 billion. Yet, we have continued to pass on over the last 4 years \$3 trillion in additional debt that was borrowed, more than all the predecessors of the last 42 Presidents combined.

One thing you can say about the Republican Congress and President Bush when it comes to the economy: We will be forever in your debt, because that is all you have left is a sea of red ink, and